

Appln. No. 09/370,178
Response dated September 26, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 20, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Rejections under 35 USC §112

The Examiner has raised multiple objections based on informalities, as well as several rejections based on non-compliance with 35 USC §112. Applicant has addressed the informalities in every case by adopting the wording suggested by the Examiner. Applicant has amended the claims in order to bring the application into compliance with 35 USC §112.

Turning to the rejections under 35 USC §112, Applicant has clarified the language of claim 8 by inserting words "that is" so as to make it clearer that the probability being determined is the probability for an information symbol, said information symbol being the first information symbol in a survivor path of length δ . Claim 15 has been clarified by the substitution of the words "each vector of logarithmic probability ratios" for the words "each vector". Claim 15 has also been clarified by language indicating that the expression "such states" refers to the states of a decoding trellis. Claim 16 has been amended to clarify that it is the possible states whose total probabilities are being normalized.

The lack of clarity in Claim 17 has been addressed by including the method of Claim 15 in Claim 17, thus indicating how the decoder is arranged to carry out the method in question. A similar amendment has been made to Claim 20 by importing into it the method of Claim 18.

Finally, the antecedent issues in Claims 15 and 16 have been addressed.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the above amendments are fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. No new matter or new issues have been introduced. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 8-20 is solicited. If the Examiner does not receive the foregoing remarks in a positive light, she is earnestly requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to advance the application.

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As previously requested, please charge our Deposit Account No. 501593 in the amount of \$200.00 to cover the fee specified in 37 C.F.R. 1.16(h) for filing or later presentation of each independent claim in excess of 3. If the preceding amount is incorrect, any deficiency or overpayment should also be charged or credited to this deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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